GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:164
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2017
Ecologically Sensitive Areas
Wanaga Shri Chintaman Navsha

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has declared certain areas as ecologically sensitive/fragile areas in the Country;
(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Dahanu area in Maharashtra; and
(c) whether the Dahanu Taluka Environment Protection Authority constituted/appointed in the year 1996 is still working under the same Chairmanship and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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Statement referred to in reply to Parts (a) to (c) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 164 for reply on 14th March 2017 regarding "Ecologically Sensitive Areas" raised by Adv. Chintaman Navasha Wanaga .

(a & b)To provide special protection to landscape, biodiversity, wildlife, historical value, regulate the developmental activities and ensure sustainable development, Central Government has been notifying the Eco-sensitive Areas (ESA) from time to time in exercise of the powers conferred under sub-section (3) of Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act 1986. So far, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MEF&CC) has notified eight ESAs in the country. Besides, one draft notification to declare ESA for Western Ghats has recently been published inviting public comments/views. A state-wise detail of ESA is annexed.

(c) The MEF&CC vide its Notification No. S.O. 416 (E) dated 20th June, 1991 has notified Dahanu Taluka as an Ecologically Fragile Area. Subsequently, pursuant to the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court, MEF&CC vide its Notification No. S.O. 884 (E), dated 19th December, 1996, has constituted an Authority known as "Dahanu Taluka Environment Protection Authority" in the State of Maharashtra, for protection of eco-fragile character of Dahanu Region under the Chairmanship of Shri Chandrashekhar Shankar Dharmadhikari (Retired Judge of High Court, Mumbai). It is an independent Authority. The Supreme Court vide its order dated 9th September, 2002 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 231 of 1994 directed that "the Authority shall continue to function till further orders of this Court". In compliance of this order, the MEF&CC amended the notification vide S.O.No.1211 (E), dated 18th Nov. 2002.

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